

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Fourth Page

illustrating the history of the monastic life in Great Britain in the Middle Ages. The work of one F. Somerset Merryweather, an obscure Holborn bookseller who dabbled in authorship between the years 1850 and 1860, and achieved a sort of second-hand immortality through being the author of the celebrated "Lives and Reminiscences of Milton." This, as the reader will remember, was one of the ponderous volumes with which, on Sunday evenings, Mr. Miles Ware was wont to delight the soul of the golden dustman when they retired to their literary exercises in "Hobbs's Bower."

The period covered by the present work is that beginning with the seventh century and ending with the time of the invention of printing, or about seven hundred years. Previous to the middle of the present century these centuries lying between the fall of the Roman Empire and the revival of learning were generally referred to as the Dark Ages. Even Mr. Hallam could find no good to say of the church or the institutions and characterized the early university as the abode of "indolent vagabonds withdrawn from usual labor" and all monks as positive enemies of learning.

Merryweather's "Hiberniana," published in 1850, was one of the earliest works in English devoted to the restoration of a medieval time to their proper place in the history of the preservation and dissemination of books—a labor by the way which has been splendidly continued and amplified quite recently by Mr. George Haven Putnam in that work, "Books and Their Makers During the Middle Ages." Merryweather made his plain defence of the bookmen of the Middle Ages in all that old-fashioned earnestness of spirit that makes the true antiquarian "I do not wish," he says, "to make the past assume a superiority over the present, but I think a contemporary of medieval art would often open a new avenue of thought and lead to many a pleasing and profitable discovery. . . . I would say one word to vindicate the lover of old musty writings and the explorer of rude antiquities from the charge of unprofitable idleness, and to protect him from the sneer of the new, and to the student's course is when he ramble personally among the ruins and remnants of long gone ages, sometimes painful as such sights, even deeply so; but never to a righteous mind are they unprofitable, much less exerting a narrowing tendency on the mind, or cramping the evolution of human feeling. For cold, indeed, must be the heart that can behold strong walls tottering to decay, and fretted vaults, mutilated and dismantled of their pristine beauty; that can behold the proud strongholds of baronial power and feudal tyranny, the victims of the liege, or creeping parasite of the ivy tribe, cold, I say, would be the heart that can see such things, and draw no lesson from them."

They were true artists, those old monkish book men of the middle ages, filled with poetical imagination—literate spirits who were often happy to consecrate a life time to the ornamentation of a single sacred book dedicated to the community, which gave them in exchange the necessities of life. There was also a considerable trade, particularly in England, in books of a more secular kind, and from the twelfth century onward there was a large production and sale of books under such headings as chronicles, satires, sermons, works of science and medicine, prose romances and epics in verse. Of the monkish artificers who, prior to the invention of the art of printing, were the makers of all these books Merryweather says in his conclusion, that he believes he has proven "that with all their superstition, with all their ignorance, their blindness to philosophic light, the monks of old were hearty lovers of good books; that they encouraged learning, fostered it, and transferred repeatedly the books which they had rescued from the destruction of war and time and so kindly cherished and husbanded them as intellectual food for posterity. Such being the case, let our hearts be charitably upon them, and while we pity them for their superstition or blame them for their pious frauds, love them as brother men and workers in the mines of literature." The present reprint has an interesting introductory chapter by Mr. Charles Orr, librarian of Case Library. The book is excellently made and is uniform in appearance with the reprint of "Philobiblon" by the same publishing house.

In "The Tropics," by José María de Heredia, translated by Frank Sewall, Nestors Small, Maynard & Co., published an English version of the remarkable sonnets, "Les Tropiques," which in 1904 won for Heredia his admission to the Academy, and which, as his translator says, have alone sufficed to place him among the most eminent of the French poets of any age. In translating them Mr. Sewall, while strictly maintaining the verse form, has purposely discarded rhyme, in order to allow for a rendering of these splendid word studies unembarrassed by such restriction. Here is one, "The Coral Reef," in which the translator has caught and imprisoned some of the wondrous plastic colors and shifting lights of the original lines.

The sea beneath the sea, mysterious dawn,
Lifts up a coral forest of the abyss
Which mingles in its basins' tepid depths
The blooming animal and the breathing flower
And all that sink or bubble with tongue,
Sea weed and mussel, coral, anemone,
Cover with somber purple in stuporous plan.
The floor reticulate of madrepore,
Fanning their lustre with his splendid scales
A mighty fish has darted through the tangles.
Then tiny people in the transparent shades,
And suddenly with swirls of perylin
He sends throughout the dull blue crystal depths
A shiver of gold, of pearls and emerald.

A simpler beauty is in the epigram upon the young girl dead:

Whoever thou mayst be, O living one,
Pass quickly by the mound where lies my dust;
Canst not the flowers that make my humble tomb,
Where I can hear the bird and hear the dew,
Thou lingerest? I hear a sound of doves.
No, let them not be sacrificed for me;
It isn't he blind to me, give them their flight;
For life is sweet to him, let them live, good friend,
Let them know! beneath the earth-embowered gate,
Virgin at once and bride, at nuptial door,
I died, so near, so far from him I loved.
Mine eyes are closed to the happy light,
And now I dwell, alas, and ever shall,
In gloomy night and hopeless dreams.

The edition, which is limited to 750 copies on English handmade paper, is embellished with original borders and initials designed by Mr. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.

"The Awakening of the East, Siberia-Japan-China," M. Chur, Phillips & Co., by Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu, is a book founded on the results of personal observation made in the course of a year-long journey through Siberia, China and Japan, supplemented by information derived chiefly from official and carefully collected documents. The awakening of the largest and most densely populated of the five continents, through the influx of new ideas and ideas from the West, is the application of modern science to the exploitation of its wealth, is the phenomenon to the examination of which the author has devoted his work.

Published in France in April of this year, the work was at once recognized as having thrown more light on the difficult problems of the East than any other single book. At the situation in China the author says: "We believe that the business and practical sense so highly developed in the Chinese will induce them to become reconciled to the material tide of our civilization, but by multiplying simultaneously in every direction preliminary works, say for railways, we annoy them and wound their susceptibilities before giving them a chance to appreciate the advantages of our innovations, not to mention the economical disturbances arising therefrom. In conclusion, though patriotism is at a low ebb in the Middle Kingdom, and the military spirit still lower, we might, by worrying the Chinese too much, end by creating the one and recussitating the other. In any case, if the Chinese make bad soldiers—chiefly because they have detestable officers—they are first-class rioters. Wherefore any idea of dividing China, either now or at some future time, seems to me ill-advised. Passing events will have taught a useful lesson should they bring Europe to abandon once and forever this fatal idea. It was very wisely said in the English Parliament during the present crisis that 'China must be governed by the Chinese and for the Chinese,' which does not mean that it should be governed against the foreigners. Let us hope that all

New Publications.

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SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE FOR 1901



THE REGULAR ARMY, by GENERAL FRANCIS V. GREENE. Few invited stories of adventure contain more deeds of personal heroism or more incidents of thrilling interest than the actual history of the career of the American Army during the hundred years of its existence. It is a story that has long needed telling, and a better narrator could hardly be found than General

Greene, one of the army's foremost representatives in military and civil life, and a writer of known brilliancy. The story will be covered in several articles and will be richly illustrated by F. C. Yohn, H. C. Christy, and others especially fitted for the work.

MRS. GILBERT'S STAGE REMINISCENCES. Mr. Daly, James Lewis and many other figures of yesterday appear in Mrs. Gilbert's entertaining pages, while of the older leaders of the stage there is a fund of anecdote. The articles are among the most vivacious and interesting of their kind, and will contain a wealth of illustrations.

WALTER A. WYCKOFF, author of "The Workers," will have several new articles in the same field, giving an account of "A Day With a Tramp," "On An Iowa Farm" and other experiences.

J. M. BARRIE'S NEW STORY. The magazine will later in the year make an important announcement concerning a new story by J. M. Barrie.

KATE DOUGLAS WIGGIN, in "The Diary of a Goose-Girl," has written the most charming of her stories, and it will appear in *Scribner's* in three parts, with very attractive illustrations.

THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINEER, by JOHN FOX, Jr. Several articles in the early part of 1901 will portray this romantic and fast-diminishing type of American character. Mr. Fox knows his subject by experience and special observation, and illustrates his articles from photographs.

SHORTER FICTION. ERNEST SETON THOMPSON will contribute several of his charming animal stories, illustrated by himself; there will also be short stories by Edith Wharton, Octave Thanet, Frank R. Stockton, Henry James, Thomas Nelson Page, F. J. Stimson, Henry van Dyke, A. T. Quiller-Couch, and other well-known writers.

The prospectus for 1901, a twenty-four page illustrated booklet printed in colors, will be sent free to any address on application.

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RUSSIA OF TO-DAY, by HENRY NORMAN, M.P. This notable and timely series of articles, begun in October, will be continued. Recent developments in the East have given to Mr. Norman's articles so extraordinary a value that they will be regarded as one of the most important magazine undertakings of the year. The articles are the result of a journey and investigations made especially on behalf of *Scribner's*, and Mr. Norman's comments on present conditions in Russia and her probable future are made in the light of the latest events. The many illustrations from the author's photographs and other sources are a noteworthy feature of the articles.

EVENTS IN CHINA AND THE EAST will be covered in articles by special correspondents.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT will, from time to time during 1901, contribute to *Scribner's* articles on public topics.

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS will contribute several articles and stories, the first, to appear during the winter, being a travel sketch in a new field to him and one of the best of his vivid narratives.

NEW YORK LIFE AND SCENES. The studies of New York, which have proved so attractive in the magazine, are to be resumed at intervals during the year.

NEW STORIES OF THE AMATEUR CRACKSMAN. A new series of Cracksmen stories, by E. W. Hornung, of baffling ingenuity in plot and thrilling interest. The incomparable Raffles is reintroduced to his many reader admirers in a wonderful succession of adventures and hair-breadth escapes. The stories will be fully illustrated by F. C. Yohn.

ART FEATURES will include, besides the notable illustrations for "The Regular Army" and other pictorial plans of special importance, noteworthy papers on art subjects by John La Farge, W. C. Brownell, and other distinguished writers, while the Field of Art will continue to be the most important critical department of its kind, edited by Mr. Russell Sturgis, and contributed to by leading authorities in art matters.

A list of the illustrators for next year includes Walter Appleton Clark, F. C. Yohn, H. C. Christy, Maxfield Parrish, Henry McCarter, A. I. Keller, A. B. Frost, E. C. Peixotto, W. Glackens, Henry Hutt, and many others. There will be new and original schemes of illustration in colors as well as in black and white, and colored covers.

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